

300 PERISH AS BRITISH SHIP SINKS

Armored Cruiser Natal, Lying at Anchor Near London, is Sent to Bottom By Terrific Internal Explosion—Only 400 of Complement of 700 Officers and Men Believed Saved—Heaviest Loss to British Admiralty Since Sinking of Battleships Triumph and Majestic.

London, Dec. 31.—The British armored cruiser Natal has sunk after an explosion. Official announcement to this effect was made here today.

The Natal was sunk yesterday afternoon while in harbor, as the result of an internal explosion.

More than 300 officers and men are believed to have perished.

There are about 400 survivors.

The Natal's sinking is the severest loss which the navy has sustained in several months. No British naval vessels of importance had been sunk since last May, when the Triumph and Majestic were torpedoed at the Lardanes. The Natal, although a powerful man-of-war, was laid down 11 years ago, and her displacement was only about one-half that of the largest British sea fighters.

The Natal's normal complement was 704 men. Her displacement was 13,660 tons. She was 480 feet long and 73 feet of beam. Her largest guns were 9.2 inch. Of these she carried three forward and three aft. She was armed also with four 7.5 inch guns, 24 3-pounders and three torpedo tubes.

The Natal, brought to New York from Portsmouth the body of a white, American ambassador at

London, after his death in 1912, remaining at New York for two weeks.

MONTENEGRO CLAIMS CAPTURE OF 1,500

Paris, Dec. 31.—The capture of 1,500 prisoners by the Montenegrins in an engagement in the Sanjak in which an Austrian detachment was wiped out, is announced in the Montenegrin official statement received here today.

The statement admits the recapture of Raskova Cove by the Austrians but claims "to have repulsed the enemy on the Lovcen front inflicting an appreciable loss and capturing some prisoners."

Berlin, Dec. 31.—Defeat of the Serbs (Continued on Page 2)

REPEAL OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE LAW BY G. O. P. FLAYED BY COMMISSION

"Great Confusion" Wrought in Work, Says President Morris in Annual Report to Governor—No Certainty to Positions Won By Competition, is Complaint of State Board.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 31.—The annual report, the second of that body, of the Connecticut Civil Service Commission, was handed to Gov. Holcomb today. The review of the year's work is by Charles G. Morris, the president. He gives his attention to the remodeling of the law by the recent General Assembly. He points out that the changes brought about developed a new situation and threw the commission into the "greatest confusion."

The year's work, he says, was the consequence of the changes in the law. Mr. Morris points out, has been less and of a less interesting nature as compared with what was done under the 1913 statute.

Mr. Morris says in his review: "During the past year the commission has been operating under two plans so widely different in theory and effect that it seems desirable to outline their main differences."

The Civil Service law of 1913 was planned to include as large a portion as possible of the subordinate employees of the state under the merit system. Officers directly charged with the duty of establishing the policy of the state or of any of its departments or institutions—whether elected by popular vote or appointed by legislative authority—were specifically unclassified and so not subject to competitive tests. Their higher subordinates who might in some cases be so charged with individual initiative and responsibility as to be really policy-making officers might also be exempted from test by the Civil Service Commission. The commission was required to make public inquiry into the facts concerning the duties and the way they appeared to be policy-making officers, or if exemption would tend to the selection of more fit employees than could be obtained by any form of competitive test, it might be granted.

In February, 1915, the legislature passed an amendment to the Civil Service law of 1913 which went into effect on March 1, 1915.

The statute of 1915 was, apparently, planned to facilitate exemption from test in any instance where the head of a department or institution might desire exemption. No burden of inquiry was placed upon him to ascertain whether or not this commission could assist him. . . .

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NINE GEORGANS FALL AS BLACK AND WHITE FEUDISTS WAGE WAR

Blakely, Ga., Dec. 31.—Excitement throughout this section by clashes between white possumen and negroes near here yesterday in which seven negroes were killed and two whites seriously hurt, had not entirely died down today. Influential white citizens who were busy until late last night in efforts to prevent further possible outbreaks, expressed the belief, however, that there would be no more trouble.

Five of the negroes were shot and killed and two others were burned to death, according to reports here, as a result of three pitched battles between the negroes and various bands of whites seeking to capture Grandison Goolbsy, a negro farmer, and his two sons, Mike and Ulysses, accused of assassinating Henry J. Villipie, an overseer, who had thrashed one of the younger Goolbsys. Villipie was shot in the back Wednesday night, his wife narrowly escaping death from several other shots fired after he fell.

The negroes reported dead were Grandison Goolbsy, his two sons, boys of whom were burned in a cabin in which they sought refuge, "Hosp" Jewell, Charles Holmes, James Burton and Early Hightower.

Jewell and Holmes were killed in aiding the Goolbsys stand off a posse led by Sheriff Howell, of Early county. Burton and Hightower met death resisting another posse which sought to search their cabin.

It was estimated that there were several hundred in the various posses and it was said that probably half a dozen were wounded. Samuel Pittman and O. B. Hudspeth, members of the sheriff's posse, were the only two whites who were known here to have been wounded. Pittman's right arm was broken by a shot and Hudspeth was shot in the head. He is expected to recover.

The killings took place in the western part of this (Early) county, about 16 miles west of here and near the Alabama border.

MERIDEN SILVER COMPANIES SUE LABOR LEADERS

Ask Injunction Against "Interference" by Activities During Strike.

MRS. SCULLY AMONG SEVERAL DEFENDANTS

Manufacturers Ask \$5,000 Damages and Name Many Prominent Unionists.

Meriden, Dec. 31.—Service of writs was begun today in the action brought by the International Silver Company and Manning, Bowman & Company, an allied concern, at whose plant strikes have been in progress several weeks, against the metal-polishers, buffers, platers, brass and silver workers union of North American and affiliated locals in Meriden and Wallingford, for \$5,000 damages and a permanent injunction restraining the defendants "from further interfering" with the conduct of the business of the companies.

The two concerns allege intimidation, boycotting and unlawful interference by the strikers with employees of the companies and ask for a permanent injunction against the alleged practices.

The writs name in addition to the national and local organizations various officers and organizers of the unions and others including: James B. Hill, president of the Silver Workers' Union, Julius E. Stremme, president of the Connecticut Federation of Labor, W. W. Britton, president and John J. Flynn, vice-president of the National Organization and these officers of the Meriden local: Austin Parsons, Joseph Somers, Nicholas Gillogly, John J. Brown, Mrs. Clara Lacroix and Mrs. Fitzgerald.

The organizers include Mrs. Mary Scully and George Roach.

The application for a permanent injunction will be heard in New Haven in the superior court next Wednesday. The action for damages will come up in New Haven, Feb. 1.

ALLEGED STRIKE PLOTTERS SEEK TO DELAY TRIALS

Washington, Dec. 31.—Former Representative H. Robert Fowler, Henry B. Martin and Herman Schultze, identified with labor's national peace council and indicted in New York under the Sherman anti-trust law for conspiracy to restrain trade in munitions, demanded a preliminary hearing when they appeared today before United States Commissioner Taylor to make a formal return to the indictment. Hearing was set for Jan. 20.

Representative Frank Buchanan, of Illinois, indicted on the same charge, sent word to the department of justice today that he would waive all questions of immunity go to New York as quickly as possible, probably within a week, furnish bail and adopt no military tactics.

The demand for a hearing came as a surprise to the government attorneys, who he did not believe that such an indictment would lie under the Sherman law, or any other law.

HUSBAND CHOKED HER SO HARD HER THROAT WAS SORE

Myra F. Higgins, sister of Mrs. Charles S. Fox of Fairfield and a former telephone girl in the local exchange, was granted a divorce this afternoon from George F. Higgins of this city by Judge Gager in the superior court. Intolerable cruelty was the ground. Mrs. Higgins, a light haired girl of more than usual attractiveness, testified that her husband frequently choked and beat her.

After these choking affairs her throat was so sore she couldn't swallow, Mrs. Higgins said. Once when she went with her husband to the Shriners' ball in this city, Higgins left her in the ballroom and remained away for more than an hour. When they went home after the ball Mrs. Higgins remonstrated with her husband for his action. Thereupon he choked her and broke a string of beads she wore.

Charles S. Fox, former first selectman in Fairfield, told of seeing Higgins commit acts of cruelty and Mrs. George Jennings of Fairfield, a sister of the plaintiff, testified along the same lines. The parties were married September 20, 1906. Mrs. Higgins' maiden name was Myra Valasek.

Jennie E. Bailey of Danbury was granted a divorce from Reuben T. Bailey of parts unknown. He deserted the plaintiff in 1912 and about a year afterward was accused of forgery and forced to flee. Mrs. Bailey's maiden name was Jennie Brown.

Jennie Sticklin of Bethel was freed from Stephen Sticklin of parts unknown. Desertion July 26, 1912, was alleged. The couple were married April 16, 1912.

JOE MURPHY, OLD ACTOR DEAD

New York, Dec. 31.—Joe Murphy, an old time actor, best known for his impersonation in Kerry Gow, died early today of pneumonia in this city. He was 83 years old and left an estate, estimated at \$5,000.000.

AUSTRIAN REPLY TO ANCONA NOTE CONCILIATORY; DANGER OF DIPLOMATIC RUPTURE OVER SCORE REPORTED DEAD IN FACTORY EXPLOSION

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Reports that 15 or 20 firemen had been killed in an explosion which set fire to the plant of the American Linseed Co. in South Chicago, were received by the police today. After the explosion the flames spread rapidly and firemen were unable to enter the building.

REQUISITIONS ON CITY TREASURY ARE SOARING TO ASTOUNDING TOTAL

The face of the appropriations demanded by Mayor Wilson and his subordinates, for expense of municipal government, reaches an astounding total.

New buildings, sewers, pavements, and every sort of thing for which money can be expended is demanded with thoughtful improvidence.

The fire commissioners ask for fifty more firemen.

The police commissioners ask for sixty more policemen, and the creation of other good jobs.

These demands jibe accurately with rumor just preceding the election when it was already known that an attempt would be made to end places in the police and fire departments for the faithful.

The appropriations ask for approximately more than \$4,000,000. But no such amount will be granted by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation.

That demands are so recklessly made comes in part, no doubt, from the desire of the administration to create such a terror of an inordinate tax rate as will lead the citizenship to look favorably upon a large bond issue.

Before the end of January the taxpayers will have a pretty clear idea of the direction in which Mayor Wilson's policy of a large debt and a "fifteen mill tax rate" has taken them. Only inordinate bonding this year can keep the rate below 23 mills.

The police commissioners today asked for \$44,225, including \$60,225 for 50 additional patrolmen.

The streets and sidewalks committee ask for \$766,302, including \$150,000 for Warrentite and \$293,000 for the health board.

The health board wants \$344,192, including \$200,000 for an addition to the charitable building.

The public works department asks for \$305,000.

The school board already has asked for \$1,205,000, and the fire commissioners for \$3,250,000, including salaries for 50 additional firemen.

The public works department asks for \$305,000.

General sidewalk grading, \$12,000; state highway construction, \$7,000; new sidewalks, curb and gutter, \$16,000; new crosswalks, \$5,000; general

grading, \$10,000; new watering troughs, \$1,000; tree removal and setting back curbs, \$5,000; total, \$91,000.

Land damages, Stratford avenue widening and change of grade on account of new bridge, \$62,037.27; Grand street widening on account of new bridge, \$50,000; extension Boston avenue, North avenue to Main street, \$55,000; widening Congress street, \$49,400; total, \$226,437.27.

Bridge across Berkshire pond between Roosevelt street and Island Brook avenue, \$15,000; for three comfort stations, one at City Hall, one in Washington Park and one in West End park, \$25,000; bituminous macadam, to be laid on streets to be named later, \$150,000; water bound macadam on 53 streets, \$235,705; special street grading on 33 streets, \$62,160.

Total, \$766,302.27.

Last year the committee got \$147,167.16. Increase this year, \$619,135.11.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

In the requisition, filed with City Auditor Bernard Keating, this afternoon, the Board of Police Commissioners has asked for nearly half a million dollars to run the department during the coming fiscal year, and to pay the salaries of 60 additional policemen.

The Board of Apportionment last year granted the police department an appropriation approximating \$221,000 and the requisition filed today calls for \$441,225, or nearly \$222,000 more than was allowed last year.

In addition to three new precinct stations, the remodeling of the present police building calls for a requisition

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WILL SEPARATE GIRLS AND BOYS IN NEW B. H. S.

Grouping of Sexes To Be Necessitated By Layout of the Rooms.

Separate grouping of boys and girls in the new High school will be one of the features of the building, according to present plans. The change will be necessitated because of the location and size of the wardrobes.

The last piece of carpenter work of importance in the school is being finished now. It is the gymnasium flooring.

Workmen are completing the assembly hall. It has a platform with footlights like a stage.

The criterion board is likely to have offices of its own unless other arrangements are made. A large apartment near the proposed headquarters of Principal H. D. Silmonds will be devoted to them. It is planned.

Shantling blackboards are in the recitation rooms. Dr. Charles W. Deane, former superintendent of schools, evolved the idea, in the belief that efficiency will be promoted by having the writing surface always at the same distance from the writer.

The permanent gift committee of the class of 1912 met yesterday in the new building and discussed plans for a suitable remembrance to be placed in the new building. No decision was made but at the recommendation of Principal Silmonds a sub-committee was appointed to investigate and report to the main committee.

GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH

New Year's Day services will take place at the German Reformed church, Congress street near Main street, at 10:40 tomorrow morning.

FIND TWO BOYS INTOXICATED ON STREET CORNER

Detectives Searching For Liquor Dealer Who Gave Children Drink.

Daniel McDermott, aged 15, of 235 James street, New Haven, and Vincent Borosky, the same age, of 25 Mill street, New Haven, were arraigned in the city court this morning on the charge of drunkenness.

Heavy-eyed and with befuddled wits, half frightened by their strange surrounding and the distance from home, the children could only answer incoherently and indefinitely to questions put them on the stand, by officers of the court.

They couldn't tell where they received drink. They only remembered going into a place that, from their description, is assumed to be a cabaret. They didn't remember being picked up at Broad and John streets by a policeman, who found McDermott helplessly intoxicated and Borosky staggering.

Although closely questioned they couldn't tell where they'd been and the more they told of what they had seen, and the beginning of their experience, the more indignant became the judge and attaches of the court.

Wrought up over the disgraceful scene enacted in the city streets, and the immoral conduct of which some liquor dealer is guilty, Superintendent Birmingham has instituted an investigation.

Two detectives have been assigned to learn the name of the person who gave the boys liquor. When the evidence is obtained the case will be reported to Liquor Prosecutor Albert Merritt for prosecution.

The police believe the boys were in a cabaret. One boy said they met two girls in there and that they must have been robbed, for \$7 was missing.

Vienna Will Comply With Demands of United States For Disavowal of Attack and Punishment of Commander of Submarine—Official Text of Reply Being Translated at State Department—Indemnity To Be Paid Alone Remains To Be Cleared Up Now—Tension in Capital Relaxes.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The official text of Austria's Ancona note was received early today at the state department. The work of translating from the diplomatic code will take several hours and arrangements for publication will be made later.

The reply came in sections. Secretary Lansing said this forenoon that one section had been translated and that he expected the complete translation would be in his hands before night. Officials who had read the unofficial version of the reply received in press despatches from London apparently were much gratified at its nature.

Danger of a break of diplomatic relations with Austria-Hungary was no longer considered imminent. Officials said, however, that additional correspondence on the subject was sure to ensue.

Secretary Lansing declined to comment on the reply until he had the complete official text before him. It was considered probable that the official text would be given out for publication either today or tomorrow unless some provision for such publication has been appended to the text by Ambassador Penfield at Vienna.

Secretary Lansing has received from Ambassador Penfield a brief resume of the contents of the note. He declined, however, to make public this despatch or comment upon it.

If the official text of Austria's reply to the second American note conforms to press despatches saying the communication announced that the submarine commander who torpedoed the steamer had been punished, virtually only one phase of the incident remains to be cleared up. That would be the payment of indemnity for American lives lost for which Austria has expressed a willingness to make reparation.

Later, however, there may be government, in effect, disavowed the act and gave assurances that there would be no repetition of such an incident.

Although officials reserved some comment today pending the receipt of the official text, there was a relaxation of the tension which has been evident here.

READY TO TELL OF ATTACK.

New York, Dec. 31.—Dr. Cecile Grell, the American Red Cross nurse, who was on the steamer Ancona when it was sunk, telegraphed the state department today from New York, expressing appreciation for aid given her and offering to come to Washington to give a personal account of the Ancona's sinking should it be desired. No engagement, however, has been made for her.

TELEPHONE GIRLS DO DOUBLE WORK AS GRIP SPREADS

Twenty-Five Operators Unable to Report For Duty at Local Exchange.

"Hello" Girls in the Park City are afflicted with colds, grip and pneumonia. Twenty-five reported off duty this morning with the result that Chief Operator Thomas A. Dowd had troubles in maintaining telephone service throughout this, the busiest day in the telephone year.

Scenes in the big Fairfield avenue exchange were unique, for instead of the girls sitting on high stools, calmly plugging in here and there as a light appeared, all operators had to stand their four hour shifts on foot, covering two boards.

Extreme activity of motion, good reach, and accuracy came into play throughout the day until reserve forces could be brought into play.

Grip and pneumonia are prevalent throughout the city, physicians being rushed to their capacity for attention. In some instances where physicians' cases amounted to over one hundred, substitute physicians were employed.

Most of the big factories were short-handed today. At the Remington and U. M. C. plants no attempt was made by the officials to estimate the percentages absent. The Harvey Hubbell works reported about 10 per cent. sick. Similar illness was reported generally throughout Bridgeport factories, the percentage being larger among the women than men.

Bridgeport hospital recorded 15 cases of pneumonia. St. Vincent's had 15 cases of pneumonia and seven of grip and r discharging several inpatient cases today.

It is believed that the epidemic has reached its apex and that the number of cases reported to physicians are diminishing.

FRENCH SUBMARINE SUNK.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—An official Austrian report received here today from Vienna says that the French submarine Monge was sunk on Wednesday by an Austrian flotilla.

ENJOY FESTIVAL.

A Christmas festival was enjoyed by the little ones of the Sunday school at the Newfield M. E. church at the church parlors yesterday afternoon. An address was made by Rev. D. M. Lewis and distribution of candy and gifts from the tree followed.

POLAND SLATED FOR \$2,000 JOB AT HIGH SCHOOL

Former Member of Board of Relief to Handle Big Building.

Charles H. Poland, member of the board of relief for several terms, will get the job as superintendent of the new high school at the next meeting of the board of education. The committee on schoolhouses will make a report in favor of Mr. Poland, it is expected, and the recommendation will be accepted.

The job will pay in the neighborhood of \$2,000 the first year, but it is expected that this salary will be jumped considerably after the school has been in operation more than 12 months.

Mr. Poland will get the position that was planned for William Brown, former police commissioner. The latter, however, was made sealer of weights and measures instead and this left the field open. A wild scramble for the high school position ensued but Mr. Poland is the choice made by the committee on school houses at the last meeting. In getting this plum from the administration he is shouldering aside many other men prominent in Republican politics.

He will have five or six persons under his charge, at the high school building. Janitors, scrubwomen, boiler engineers and extra help will report to him.

Mr. Poland has been prominent in political activities in the Twelfth district second precinct for many years. He has served as a member of the Republican town committee and has held several terms on the board of relief. Twice he was secretary of the board. He now holds secretaryships on the East Washington avenue and Grand street bridge commissions.

He refused reappointment to the board of relief when his last term was up.

25,000 Gallons of "Booze" Into Sewer

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 31.—Twenty-five thousand pints of whiskey, brandy and rum, confiscated by the state prohibition department were emptied in a sewer here yesterday. The process required three hours' work on the part of the four men who worked in relays in order to prevent being overcome by the fumes.